

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 061731Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1171

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0657

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CVIS GY
SUBJ: CONSULAR TESTIMONY IN COURT CASE

REF: STATE 052299 B. STATE 098541

1. CONSULAR OFFICER, MARSHA BARNES, APPEARED AS PROSECUTION
WITNESS IN COURT TRIAL OF RAJKUMARIE MANICHAND AND JEAN PERSAUD
ON MAY 3, 1975.

2. QUESTIONS BY PROSECUTOR LIMITED TO VISA PROCEDURES AND ACTUAL
FACTS OF CASE.

3. CONSULAR OFFICER DECLINED TO ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS UNDER CROSS-
EXAMINATION BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY WITH NO APPARENT ADVERSE REACTION.
FIRST QUESTION INVOLVED SPECULATION BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY AS TO
WHETHER CONSULAR OFFICER NO LONGER AT POST COULD HAVE VIOLATED
U.S. LAW AND DELEGATED DEFENDANTS AS VISA AGENTS. CONSULAR
OFFICER DECLINED AFTER ANSWERING THE PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TO EFFECT
THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS COULD NOT DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR

ISSUANCE OR REFUSAL OF VISAS. SECOND QUESTION DECLINED RELATED TO
AMBASSADOR'S INFLUENCE OR INVOLVEMENT IN VISA MATTERS. CONSULAR
OFFICER HAD PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED THAT AMBASSADOR DOES NOT HAVE
VISA ISSUING AUTHORITY.

4. CASE CONTINUES. DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

5. CONSUL WILLIAM A COLWELL PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO APPEAR
IN CASE OF LESLIE PREMDASS/REF B ON MAY 12, 1975.

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EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM GUYANESE POLICE

AUTHORITIES THAT TESTIMONY WILL BE LIMITED IN SCOPE TO VISA
PROCEDURES AND ACTUAL FACTS OF CASE.
KREBS

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